

ones had hatched out and had left the nest the aggressive attitude was maintained.

After continuous incubation of the eggs by both the parents, both the eggs hatched out on 13th February 1977, and the young ones left the nest together on the 27th. About five days later, a new nest was built on the top of the existing one apparently by the same pair and an egg was laid on 6th March. However, the adult bird doing the night shift on the nest had an encounter with a prowling cat. The birds, subsequently abandoned the nest, which I ultimately cleared away.

A pair of doves moved in once again on 11th August 1977 and started nest building at the same site. The building activity was slow initially but became vigorous by 15th and continued with the same pace on 16th.

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The first egg was laid on 16th and the second on 17th. Both the young ones hatched out on 30th August. Soon after the nest-leaving by young ones on 12th September, the doves built one more nest on the top of the existing one and laid two eggs, one on 18th and the other on 19th of September. Two days later these were, however, found punctured—probably by a male House Sparrow which was always seen hovering near by.

Since the incubation period of the eggs is defined as the time interval between the laying of the last egg of the clutch and hatching of that egg (Welty 1964), the incubation period hitherto unreported in this species (Sálim Ali & Ripley, 1969) could be said to be of 13-14 days.

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7. THE VOICE OF THE JUVENILE BROWN HAWK-OWL [*NINOX SCUTULATA* (RAFFLES)]

In a note on the calls of the Jungle Owlet (*Glaucidium radiatum*) (*J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 68: 830-2) I pointed out that the juvenile has a food-call quite unlike any of the numerous notes uttered by the adult. The juvenile Brown Hawk-Owl, too, has a set of call notes strikingly different from the adult's unvarying *oo-uk* or *oo-up* call.

Since the 26th of July, 1973, when, at Parambikulam, I heard the voice of a young Hawk-Owl for the first time, I have been hearing it in Trivandrum fairly regularly in June and July. However, it was only in 1977 that, apparently, our area fell within the territory of Hawk-Owl family. Between 4-vi-1977 and 27-x-1977 a juvenile and one parent used to

haunt our backyard. On 62 nights at least during these 5 months, the birds were in our area for periods varying from half an hour to two hours or more.

The young bird's favourite perch was the tip of a truncated, upward-pointing frond of a 40-foot coconut tree. Generally it used to sit there, calling from time to time, waiting for the parent to come and feed it.

The note most often uttered was a loud, rather querulous, nasal *kweng*. This would be repeated 2-6 times in 60-120 seconds, followed by 5-10 minutes of silence. Occasionally the young bird would be silent for as long as 30 minutes.

Variations such as a sharp *m-yóom*, *m-yóon*, *m-yóong*, *koom kyoom*, *kweyoong*, and a very brief *méwm* were often uttered, some of them highly suggestive of impatience and annoyance.

When the adult came, the young one used to utter a series of sharp, but low, *kwey-kwey-kweys*, but this was only in the earlier days. Later on, the only clue to feeding was the

ghost-like form of the adult flitting to and away from the juvenile's perch. Throughout the period feeding was an absolutely silent and quick process. The adult in attendance never uttered any call-notes except towards the end of the period (September and October), when it appeared as though the juvenile was learning to produce the characteristic adult note. Elsewhere in the city the adult's voice could be heard frequently throughout this 5-month period as during other parts of the year.

After the 27th of October, 1977, the juvenile's peculiar call-note was never heard in our area. But on 1-i-1978 I heard it in another part of the city. My son, who is also very familiar with this call-note, wrote that he had heard it in December (1977) at Rourkela (Orissa). Therefore, it may be presumed that the juveniles of the two races, *N.s. lugubris* and *N.s. hirsuta* utter the same kind of food-calls.

I have made fairly satisfactory recordings of these notes on tape.

24/1337, BEHIND G.P.O.,
TRIVANDRUM 695 001,
April 27, 1978.

K. K. NEELAKANTAN

8. NORTHWARD EXTENSION OF THE RANGE OF THE SOUTH INDIAN BLACK BULBUL *HYPSIPETES MADAGASCARIENSIS* SYKES

On 15th August 1977, Humayun Abdulali, J. S. Serrao the Society's Librarian, and the author, spent a delightful day motoring through some of the most wonderfully scenic country in north Thana District, not far from Bombay. We travelled along the Agra Road until Ghoti, where we branched off westwards, passed the Vaitarna Reservoir, and then through Khodala to Suriamal at the top of

the Ghats turning south to Wada to rejoin the Agra Road at Bhiwandi.

Between Vaitarna and Suriamal, we saw a party of birds flying to a small mango by the road along the cultivated hillside. At first sight they looked like Blackheaded Blackbirds (*Turdus merula*). Through glasses we counted 11 birds moving about a tree—a flock of blackbirds!? Perplexed, we walked nearer and